

## LEAN PRINCIPLES IMPROVE PRODUCT FLOW AND CAPACITY

**ABOUT AVALON & TAHOE MANUFACTURING INC.** Avalon & Tahoe is the fifth largest pontoon manufacturer in the world. Founded in 1974, Avalon & Tahoe has grown to 250 employees and has maintained its customer-focused, quality center model to build pontoon boats. Avalon builds the pontoons, frame, and furniture all in its 120,000 square foot facility in Alma, Michigan.

Avalon has won the NMMA CSI Award for nine consecutive years from 2008-2016 for outstanding customer service and has one of the lowest incidences of warranty claim in the industry.

**THE CHALLENGE.** Avalon's owner, Jim Wolf, and his executive team wanted to improve plant capacity to meet the rapidly growing customer demand. Jim reached out to the Michigan Manufacturing Technology Center (The Center), part of the MEP National Network, to perform an assessment of the operations and identify the best path forward to achieve greater efficiency and improve production flow.

**MEP CENTER'S ROLE.** The Avalon & Tahoe team worked with The Center to create a training plan that aligned Avalon & Tahoe's strategic goals. Management, supervisors, and line leaders were trained in Lean principles such as Kanban, Value Stream Mapping, Kaizen, plant layout, and team development.

The Center's team worked directly with Avalon & Tahoe's leadership to improve product flow, which resulted in a significant decrease in lead time and an increase in capacity.

"The Center has been a critical partner in our transformation towards being a leaner organization as we continue to grow. They have trained our staff in lean and lead them in kaizen projects to improve their skills. The result has been a dramatic increase in productivity, quality, and employee engagement."

-Jim Wolf, Owner

## RESULTS



50 jobs added and 100 jobs retained



Increased sales by 25%



Increased capacity by 77%



Decreased lead time by 40%

## CONTACT US



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